



## Resolution on Immigration, Due Process, Civil Rights, and the Rule of Law

**Approved by a vote of the JCRC at the May 20, 2025 meeting.**

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater New Orleans affirms its commitment to protecting the dignity and rights of all people. We believe in a society grounded in fairness, compassion, and equal justice under the law. These principles are deeply rooted in Jewish tradition and shaped by our collective experience as immigrants, refugees, and a people who have often lived on the margins of society.

Jewish sacred texts instruct us to care for the stranger. The Torah teaches, “You shall not oppress the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Exodus 22:20). This commandment, repeated more than any other in the Torah, reminds us that our own story compels us to act with empathy and justice. The belief that all people are created in the image of God - *b’tzelem Elohim* - calls us to affirm the humanity and dignity of every individual, regardless of their background or status.

We are also guided by our history. The Jewish people have long experienced the consequences of exclusion, displacement, and discrimination. These experiences are not distant memories but urgent lessons that continue to inform our responsibility to speak out and act today.

The JCRC supports a vision for America in which immigration policies are fair, civil rights are upheld, and the rule of law protects rather than harms the vulnerable.

**Guided by this legacy, and by our own history as immigrants, refugees, and survivors of persecution, the JCRC affirms the following commitments:**

- **Due Process for All:** Everyone deserves access to legal counsel, a fair hearing, and protection from arbitrary detention or deportation.
- **Refugee and Asylum Protections:** The U.S. must uphold its obligation to provide refuge to those fleeing violence or persecution.
- **Family Unity:** We oppose policies that separate families and call for systems that prioritize keeping loved ones together.
- **Humane Enforcement:** Immigration policies must respect human rights and reject racial profiling, cruelty, and indefinite detention.
- **Pathways to Legal Status:** We support comprehensive immigration reform that offers immigrants a fair path to legal status and citizenship.



- **Civil Rights Protections:** All people - regardless of immigration status, race, or religion - must be protected from discrimination and have equal access to public services and legal protections.

Our pursuit of justice is both a Jewish imperative and a civic responsibility. The JCRC remains steadfast in its advocacy for policies that reflect the values of dignity, fairness, and equal justice under the law.

**Therefore, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New Orleans supports taking the following action steps:**

- Advocate for federal and state legislation that protects asylum rights, ensures due process, and expands pathways to legal status.
- Oppose policies and practices that result in family separation, arbitrary detention, or deportation to countries where individuals face danger.
- Partner with legal services providers, immigrant justice organizations, and interfaith coalitions to support vulnerable individuals and families.
- Educate the Jewish and broader community about immigration issues through events, speaker series, and civic engagement campaigns.
- Mobilize the Jewish community to contact elected officials, submit public comments, and participate in advocacy efforts that align with these values.
- Monitor civil rights violations and support efforts to ensure equal protection under the law for all, especially marginalized immigrant communities.

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**ABOUT:** The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is a standing committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans that serves as the Federation's advocacy and social action arm, engaging all segments of the Greater New Orleans Jewish community and connecting with non-Jewish individuals and groups in the region to promote Jewish values.

The JCRC is made up of representatives from local Jewish organizations and members from the Jewish community at large.

Visit [www.jewishnola.org/jcrc](http://www.jewishnola.org/jcrc) to learn more.